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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable AL FRANKEN, a Senator from the State of Minnesota.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

We pause at the convening of this Senate session, Eternal God, to acknowledge our total dependence upon You. We are aware of the fragile and temporary nature of our earthly pilgrimage and look to You, the changeless one, to guide our steps. From You we borrow our heartbeats, and because of You we live and move and have our being.

Guide our lawmakers today with more than human wisdom. Give them the ability to solve the difficult problems of these challenging days. Lord, break in and through their human best that justice, truth, and peace may prevail. We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable AL FRANKEN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 24, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of Rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I

hereby appoint the Honorable AL FRANKEN, a Senator from the State of Minnesota, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. FRANKEN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following any leader remarks, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business. Senators will be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. There will be no rollcall votes today.

CONGRESSIONAL BADGE OF BRAVERY BOARD

Mr. REID. Mr. President, sometimes all it takes to be a hero is to do your job the way you are supposed to do that job.

A few days after New Year's, a deranged gunman walked into the Lloyd D. George Federal building in downtown Las Vegas. In addition to housing our Federal courts, it is also the building where my staff works, Senator ENSIGN's staff, and of course many other employees of the people of the State of Nevada.

Court security Officer Stanley Cooper and Deputy U.S. Marshal Richard J. Gardner—everyone calls him Joe—were on duty that day. They were both in the lobby when the gunman got there. Both of them were shot. Officer Cooper didn't make it. He died in the line of duty. I met his family and spoke at his funeral earlier this year, and I know they still miss him every day. Joe Gardner was more fortunate. He re-

turned fire on the gunman. He too was hit while protecting the people working and visiting the courthouse but he did survive.

We can never know for sure how many lives were saved because Officer Cooper gave his or because U.S. Marshal Gardner put his own life at risk. And they can never know how grateful we are for their courage. It is hard to explain.

I am proud to say I have appointed this exemplary Nevadan—U.S. Marshal Joe Gardner—to the Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Board. Because if anyone knows what bravery is, it is Joe Gardner. Seven Federal law enforcement officers serve on this board for 2-year terms. I want to express my appreciation to my friend the Republican leader, Senator MCCONNELL, for joining me in making sure Joe Gardner is one of them. It was an easy choice.

Too often we take these heroes for granted. We pass them on the streets or on our way through an office building's lobby. There are precious few like U.S. Marshal Joe Gardner—good men and women who wake up every morning, go to work and put everything on the line to protect people they do not even know. They will tell you they are just doing their jobs, and we should be grateful they are doing their jobs. We should fulfill our responsibility just as often—by thanking them every single day.

Mr. President, would the Chair announce morning business now.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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